



## The interior of the church *Münsterkirche* of Herford

The *Münsterkirche* was built under the direction of the abbess *Gertrud II. zur Lippe* 1220-1250.

It was the first westphalian hall-church; and its building-structure had strong influence on the building-history of the country.

The church is considered the only hall-building in late Romanesque architecture. It was a major step erecting a characteristic westphalian hall-church with its three equal height naves instead of a basilica. This, at the time, ultra-modern church should come up to the superior position of the Herforder collegiate church and its abbess.

A series of small Romanesque sculptures on the capitals is almost integrated in the architecture and invites to an expedition-tour inside the church.

### The stone sculpture of Saint Christopher (above the entrance door)

The sculpture was created around 1520 and is the only big stone sculpture inside the church. It shows Saint Christopher who should, as a helper in need, prevent from an early death.

### The grocers' choir

In 1340, the grocers' choir was the first Gothic addition to the original building.

### The crossing altar

The altar traces back to the building time of the church. It is the old jube altar, but the jube was removed in 1870.

Originally, the front side of the altar was decorated with the representation of a crucifix and a saint (probably Virgin Mary), the traces of the removing can clearly be seen.

No other of the up to 20 altars of pre-Reformatory times was sustained.

### The pulpit

The pulpit in baroque style was built in 1630. The balustrade of the stairs features the relief of the sacrifice of Isaac, a brazen serpent and the Annunciation.

On the basket of the pulpit is shown: The Nativity, Baptism, Pentecost, Ascension and Resurrection.

Beneath him are situated the lying figures of the Evangelists and Moses. On the top of the pulpit stands Jesus Christ as a finial above figures of the Old Testament. Moreover, it is richly decorated with angels, grotesque masks and chondral elements. The door of the pulpit was added in 1969.

### The lectern with eagle

This lectern was forged by *Ulrich Conrad* in 1969.

### The Vault

An octamerous ripped vault, in whose center Jesus Christ sits on a throne, is the heart of the church.

Over his head two swords are shown, which symbolize the secular and the sacred power, his arms are wide open as a gesture of invitation. What is striking, is the youthful face of Jesus Christ without any beard.

Around him the four figures lion, bull, angel and eagle are shown. They are symbols from the Book of Revelation 4, even if they don't have the multitude of eyes and are not carried by six wings. The four angels playing trumpets in the next wreath of the ripped vault match this. The completion is marked by stars and floral samples.

### Baptistery

A long time it had the function of an alleyway-hall for processions and at the same time was used as the burial place.

For a few decades it serves as a baptistery now. The octagonal gothic baptismal font was built around 1490. It shows at its base eight saints, four women and four men, among them Peter, Paul and probably Pusinna. On the sides of the basin eight representations of scriptural scenes can be seen: The Fall of mankind, the Expulsion from Paradise, Noah's Ark, the Passage of the Red Sea, John as a preacher, the Baptism of Jesus, Jesus on the Cross and the Ascension.



### Big bronze cross

The big bronze cross was created by *Ulrich Henn* in 1970. On medallions around Jesus several things are represented: His baptism, the entering of Jerusalem, the healing of a blind man, the calling of the disciples, the immolation of Isaac, the prophet Jeremiah and the heavenly Jerusalem.

### Sculptures of the apostles

the sculptures of the apostles in a late gothic style are fixed on the pillars of the nave.

The apostles are: Peter (with key and book), Thomas (book, goniometer), John (goblet), Paul (sword), Bartholomew (knife, skin), Philip (leaf rod), Simon (saw, book), Matthew (hatchet, book) and the artistically more considerable James as a pilgrim (with bar and shell) and Antony shown with a pig.

### Gallery of the church

In former times, the canonesses used to sit here..

Four holy ladies, Pusinna, queen Mathilda and two unknown Saints can be seen.

### Treasury

The treasury can regrettably not be visited. It is the depository of the liturgical utensils and the relics.

The only remaining mural painting worth seeing of the *Münsterkirche* is in there.

Built around 1500, it shows the patrons of the church, Mary with the child and Pusinna, framed by two bishops, probably Kilian and Burghard.

### Sanctuary

Small organ A *Zuberbier-Ott* organ 1765/1953

in convent-times the abbess sat here, on the small gallery.

### High altar

It is ornamented by a late gothic predella with rich scrimshaw in Flamboyant-style. Today, the figures of the Old Testament, Abraham, Isaiah, Jeremy, Ezekiel and Daniel, embellish the predella.

### Cast-bronze epitaph

For abbess *Elisabeth II. von der Pfalz* at the northern wall.

### Escutcheon

From the abbess *Charlotte Sophie von Kurland* (1688-1728), can also be seen at the northern wall of the choir.

### Tombstones

In the sanctuary, tombstones of different centuries can be found. The oldest, at the south-side, dates back to 1315 – it shows the canoness *Jutta von Bavenhausen* as Gothic carving. Equally noteworthy is the tombstone of clerk *Reinholdus Goswin* (died in 1358) on the east-side. He is represented with a buttoned frock and a rosary in his hands.

Five sarcophaguses can be seen in the eastern sanctuary, which was built in the 15th century. Outstanding is the tombstone of the abbess *Mechthild von Waldeck* (died in 1442). The figure is created in cameo-style. The lettering is engraved and filled-out with black niello. The other four tombs belong to abbesses of the 16th and 17th century. A lying tomb slab with three conserved escutcheons in front of the high altar covers the tomb of the most important abbess *Elisabeth II. von der Pfalz* (1667-80).

### The big organ

*Förster* and *Nikolaus* 1950/1961/1991/2006

### Windows

In 1953, *Erhard Klönk* created several windowpanes: The Ascension (east side window), the allegory of the good Samaritan (in the south), the allegory of the prodigal son (in the south-west), the archangel Michael with a dragon in the paradise-window (entrance), David (south-west), the holy Pusinna (in the north-east) and the four Gospels (confessional, south-side).